

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Vickie McCarty; Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus; Judy Seals; Mary Schneckeburger

Department: Sarah Fisher; Derrick Grant; Sarah Grant; Fran Jensen; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick

Guests: Ellen Baker; Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Natalie Childs; Jen Christian; Kate Ende; Kali Hess; Brooke Holton; Bethany Jarvis; Temika Jones; Polly Legere; Robert Martin; Becca Matusovich; Pete Plummer; Amanda Richards; Malory Shaughnessy; Jessi Wright, and Shelley Zielinski

III. NEW BUSINESS

a) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- Michelle noted that the Department has submitted its spending plan to CMS for the enhanced FMAP opportunity for HCBS. Part of the American Rescue Plan, the submission is now being reviewed by CMS.
- While the state civil emergency has ended, the federal PHE has not. The Biden administration has indicated it is their intent to provide states with 60 days' notice prior to ending the Federal health emergency. It is possible the flexibilities offered by the federal government will be available until the end of the calendar year.
 - A question was raised regarding conflicting guidance from MaineCare and licensing regarding "wet" signatures. MaineCare

seems to be saying they still are not needed, but licensing is saying they are. The request was made for clarification.

- A question was raised regarding updates on the QRTP policy and rate changes, and whether the Department is still planning on 10/1/21. Jim Martin noted he is concerned there won't be time to problem solve incongruencies in reimbursement if that is the planned date.

b) Rate System Evaluation Process

- Director Probert presented an overview of Phase 1 of the Department's rate system reform plan.
 - The report recommended the Department:
 - Establish consistent and rational bases for rates.
 - Utilize consistent Medicare benchmarks across services, where available.
 - Review and update methodologies and rates on a regular schedule.
 - Move away from cost settlement.
 - Move towards payments that hold providers accountable for cost and quality.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/blog/improving-health-maine-people-through-stronger-sustainable-mainecare-coverage-2021-05-13>

- **Rate Subcommittee Meeting Updates** – Laura Cordes was not able to attend today's MAC Meeting, however she provided Kathy with an update to share. The committee has continued to meet, discussing various rate bills and the request for a presentation on the rate reform plan. The next rate subcommittee meeting will be held July 26th at 2:00 p.m.

c.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet Review With Jenny Patterson

- Jenny noted that the decision was made to let the Medical Imaging rule lapse, as CMS is contemplating further changes that could impact that section of policy.
- Three rules were adopted that took effect July 1st: Section 17, Section 92, and Section 97. All relate to the Bates Consent Decree.

d.) **Overview of next steps for new laws and budget initiatives presented by Jenny Patterson**

- L.D.s of note include, L.D. 121, An Act To Require a Background Check for High-risk Health Care Providers under the MaineCare Program and L.D. 791, An Act Regarding Telehealth Regulations

d.) **CHIP/Children's Health Overview With Sarah Fisher**

- Sarah provided an overview of the CHIP program
- Sarah detailed the CHIP program's outreach efforts, including the survey that went out to MaineCare providers and early childcare providers to collect input on the types of outreach materials that would be useful for them to have on hand.
- The CHIP program is working on distributing materials to providers.
- Currently working with Ethos Marketing to formulate an outreach plan and design new materials

e.) **Impact of new law removing the statute of limitations for taking action due to child sexual abuse - Malory Shaughnessy**

- Malory expressed the concern that the law could have unintended impact on access to services. She noted they are starting to see issues such as therapeutic foster care providers seeing a tripling of their liability insurance rates. She is concerned liability insurance cost increases could force some providers to stop offering children's services, creating a major impact on service availability.
- Michelle noted that as we proceed with rate studies, especially if there are huge increases in costs, that information should come up via those studies.

g.) **Wrap Up**

- The agenda for the next meeting will include legislative updates, rate system evaluation implementation process information, and results on the survey regarding how to better understand what MAC members know about the rulemaking process.
 - The August meeting will go on as scheduled.
 - Let Kathy know of any agenda item requests for the next meeting.
 - A reminder that the Chair/Vice Chair elections will be held at the September 7th MAC meeting.

h.) **Items From Guests.**

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver